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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
\*Practice limited to  
Federal Agencies

July 3, 2006

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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**Art Unit 1637**

**Attn: Mail Stop AF**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/599,594; Filed: June 22, 2000  
For: **Primers and Methods for the Detection and Discrimination of Nucleic Acids**  
Inventors: Nazarenko *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4980002/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$1,520.00 to cover:  
\$1,020.00 Extension of Time Fee;  
\$ 500.00 Notice of Appeal Fee;
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
3. Notice of Appeal from the Examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
July 3, 2006  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Cottingham" clearly legible.

Frank R. Cottingham  
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FRC/lam  
Enclosures

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